

SPRIT PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE TOMBS OPENED.

Judge Rhadamantus Dowling Sitting in Judgment.

LOOK ON THIS PICTURE AND ON THAT.

Judge Edmonds Charon on the Stand.

Spirits Avast—Ghastly Developments.

Grim goblins stalked about the Tombs long after the cock's shriek proclaimed the dawn of yesterday. The spirits held high carnival at that quaint judicial precinct, and grant forms flitted about, jubilant, in all directions. The occasion was a mighty one, for "the great council of ghosts" was assembled to plead the justice of their cause, the right to a ticket of leave for a roving commission throughout the earth—permitted on this occasion only to revisit the glimpses of the moon. The court room of the Special Sessions was crammed with the disinterred, summoned again to the Tombs before Judge Dowling, who was commissioned to hear their ghostly tales and mete out retributive justice according to the deeds done in the flesh. The unearthly looking throng came trooping, with all their imperfections on their heads, submitting to the dread tribunal with meekness, for they might command an audience on occasion.

To state the case briefly, it is enough to announce that the arrest of William H. Mumler, a few days since, as a spirit photographer, led to an investigation yesterday instituted by the Mayor into the whole subject of this so-called spirit photography, the defendant being charged with swindling in that new branch of business. Mr. Geary appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Albert Day and Mr. Baker for the defendant.

The case being called the following developments were made during the progress of the case:—

TESTIMONY FOR THE PROSECUTION.

Marshall John H. Tooker, of the Mayor's office, was the first witness called for the prosecution.

Examined by Mr. Geary—Q. Have you, Mr. Tooker, any other name that you are known by besides your proper name of Tooker? A. No, sir, no name that I am known by.

Q. What is your real name? A. John H. Tooker.

Q. Did you ever, for any purpose or on any occasion, lately, assume the name William H. Wallace?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was it not your real name? A. No, sir.

Q. Why do you assume that name? A. I assumed it for the purpose of prosecuting inquiries into the spirit photography business.

Q. What led you to enter upon the prosecution of inquiries in this matter, and what was your motive of proceeding to the photograph gallery of the defendant here, Mumler? A. I was directed to do so by the Mayor of this city.

Q. For what purpose were you so directed? A. A complaint had been made before Mayor Hall relative to certain photographs issued from the premises 530 Broadway.

Q. And you repaired to the premises so designated? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was your object in going there? A. A complaint, as I said before, was made to the Mayor by Mr. Hickey, in connection with certain so-called spirit photographs issued from the premises 530 Broadway, and the Mayor in consequence directed me to work up the case and see what was in the charge against the photographer, and whether there was any truth in the statements made by Mr. Hickey; in obedience of those directions I visited the premises, 530 Broadway, as I have said.

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the camera that was seated at; I remarked nothing unusual in the operation.

Q. Did you develop the picture yourself? A. I performed the whole operation up to the setting of the plate in the camera.

Q. Were not all these spirit photographs recognized by your friends? A. Quite a number were.

Q. And the parties were satisfied with them? A. Yes, and much more.

Q. From your experience in photography have you any knowledge of pictures being taken by means of the camera? A. Yes, or no? or yes or no? answer?

Q. I hardly know in what degree of spiritualism you mean.

Q. Are you a spiritualist in any degree? A. I am.

Q. How high a grade do you go in for? A. I believe in spirit manifestations that I have seen.

Q. Do you believe in spirit photography? A. Yes, I do.

Q. What else in the way of spirits do you believe? A. Well, that is again pretty general; there are a great many kinds of spirits.

Q. As a general thing, operate differently on individuals, as a general thing, operate differently on individuals; I have seen spirit manifestations produced by some power beyond the control of human agency.

Q. How long have you been a believer in this spiritual power or agency that you allude to? A. Several years.

Q. Prior to the date when you called upon Mr. Mumler have you ever attempted to take spiritual photographs yourself? A. No.

Q. When you were with Mumler experiment on these spirit photographs did you go into a dark room and see the collodion put on the plates? A. Yes.

Q. And did you examine the collodion put on the plates? A. Yes.

Q. Did you examine the plates before the collodion was poured on the plates? A. I saw him clean the plates.

Q. Did you examine the plates in the light? A. I saw him prepare the plates.

Q. But you did not examine the plates yourself? A. No.

Q. After the collodion was poured on the plates did you examine the side that was put into the bath?

A. No.

Q. How long was the plate allowed to remain in the bath? A. About five minutes.

Q. When the plate was taken from the bath was it subsequently placed on the holder and remained there?

Q. Did you examine the camera before the glass was fixed in its place? A. Yes.

Q. Did you open the box before you took your position to be operated on? A. Yes.

Q. How long was the glass allowed to remain on the camera? A. About twenty-five seconds.

Q. And is not that five seconds longer than the usual time? A. No; I think from twenty to forty seconds is the average.

Q. During the time the picture was being taken did you observe any changes in Mr. Mumler's position? A. Nothing more than that I noticed he put his hands on his hips.

Q. Did he make any motions of his hand while he had it on the camera that you noticed? A. No; I don't think he made any.

Q. Where did he keep his hands during the time he took the picture? A. On his hips.

Q. What was next done after he had taken the photograph? A. He placed the slide and took the photograph out of the camera.

Q. Did he proceed you into the dark room? A. He did, but I was immediately behind him.

Q. He did not go into the dark room, did he? A. No.

Q. There was a ray of light there when we went in. Q. What did he next do after drawing out the slide? A. He placed the slide in the camera.

Q. Did he keep your eyes fixed on the plate during the time he was operating? A. Yes.

Q. What next took place? A. He presented the plate to me, and I saw the appearance of the figures.

Q. Did you recognize the so-called spirit or ghost? A. I did not.

Q. What next was done? A. It was put through the regular process.

Q. Did you observe the process three different times? A. No.

Q. Why do you assume that name? A. I assumed it for the purpose of prosecuting inquiries into the spirit photography business.

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